

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4188

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1879

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJECT: CUT CELEBRATES LABOR DAY WITHOUT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

REF: SANTIAGO 1833 AND SANTIAGO 1858

1. SUMMARY. BEFORE LIGHTEST TURNOUT IN SEVERAL YEARS, PRES ALLENDE URGED WORKERS TO EXERCISE " RESPONSIBILITY AND DISCIPLINE" IF REVOLUTION IS TO SUCCEED, CALLED ATTENTION TO LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN U. S. SENATE SUB- COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND WATERGATE AFFAIRS, AND SHARPLY CRITICIZED TENIENTE MINERS FOR STRIKE WHICH IS ENTERING SECOND WEEK. PDC LABOR BOYCOTT PROMPTED UP TO RESCHEDULE ASSEMBLY AT SMALLER PLAZA. END SUMMARY.

2. CENTRAL UNICA DE TRABAJADORES (CUT) TRADITIONAL MAY 1 LABOR DAY CONCENTRATION MEASURABLY SUFFERED IN TERMS PARTICIPATION FROM LAST MINUTE WITHDRAWAL OF PDC AFFILIATION. PDC LEADERS PUBLICLY CLAIMED UP " SECTARIANISM" IN CUT AND APRIL 27 " ATTACKS" ON PDC HEADQUARTERS (SANTIAGO 1832) REASONS FOR BOYCOTTING ASSEMBLY, BUT PRIVATELY CONFIDED THAT MARXISTS DOUBLE- CROSS ON WORLD TRADE UNION ASSEMBLY AGREEMENT (SANTIAGO 1667) WAS ELEMENT OF DECISION. ONE PDC LEADER INDICATED TO US THAT THEY FELT THE TIME HAD ARRIVED TO DEMONSTRATE THE SIZE OF THEIR SANTIAGO LABOR FOLLOWING.

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3. ALLENDE EMPHASIZED THEME OF WORKER " RESPONSIBILITY AND DISCIPLINE" TO THE REVOLUTION, AND HE URGED THAT WORKERS INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTION AND MODERATE THEIR DEMANDS FOR HIGHER PAY. HE WARNED OF SIGNS OF " MORAL DECAY" WHICH " ARE A DANGER AND CANNOT BE IGNORED" AND BLASTED THE OPPOSITION- DOMINATED CONGRESS FOR PASSAGE OF A WAGE READJUSTMENT BILL WITHOUT A REAL BASE OF FINANCING. UNSURPRISINGLY, HE ATTRIBUTED ALL OF CHILE' S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS TO THE " ECONOMIC BLOCKADE" OF THE CAPITALIST WORLD AND STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS INHERENT IN UNDERDEVELOPMENT. HE REFERRED IN THIS CONTEXT TO THE " CABINET CRISIS PRODUCED (IN THE U. S.) BY THE RESIGNATION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, HIS ASSISTANTS AND THE CHIEF OF THE FBI." IN CONFUSED FASHION HE SOUGHT LINK WATERGATE AFFAIR WITH OVERSEAS MACHINATIONS OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. ITT CAME IN FOR FAMILIAR LICKS.

4. AFTER ELABORATING ON THE ENU EDUCATION CONTROVERSY, ALLENDE LAUNCHED A CAREFULLY PHRASED BUT STRONG CRITICISM OF THE TENIENTE MINE UNION LEADERS " MY OLD BROTHERS, THE COPPER WORKERS" WHO WANT TO ESTABLISH A " DISMAL PRECEDENT; A (WAGE READJUSTMENT ON TOP OF A READJUSTMENT." " I APPEAL TO THEIR CONSCIENCE . . . AS REVOLUTIONARY COMRADES TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDES . . . ACCEPT OUR PROPOSALS WHICH WILL PRODUCE MORE COPPER AND MORE INCOME."

5. COMMENT: ALLENDE' S SPEECH DELIVERED TO A DISAPPOINTINGLY SPARSE CROWD REEMPHASIZED UP CONCERN FOR DETERIORATING LEVELS OF PRODUCTIVITY AND MARXISTS' LEADERS DISGUST AT THE " MERCENARY INTERESTS" OF LARGE SEGMENTS OF THE WORKER POPULATION. FACED NOT ONLY BY SECOND WEEK OF TENIENTE COPPER STRIKE WHICH HAS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED COPPER PRODUCTION, BUT ALSO BY THREATS OF STRIKES IN URBAN BUS TRANSPORTATION, GASOLINE SERVICE STATIONS, GASOLINE PRODUCTION AND TRANSPORTATION, AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, ALLENDE' S LABOR DAY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN A HAPPY ONE. LEADERS OF TWO SEPARATE GROUPS OF GOVT EMPLOYEES (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVT EMPLOYEES-- ANEF-- AND FEDERATION OF PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES) COMMENTED TO LABATT THIS WEEKEND THAT ALLENDE HAD TWICE THREATENED TO RESIGN HIS OFFICE IF THERE WERE ADDITIONAL MAJOR STRIKES. (ANEF PRES. TUCAPEL JIMENEZ QUIPPED THAT NO UNION LEADER ON EITHER OCCASION MADE ANY AT-

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TEMPT TO DISSUADE HIM.) AS A MECHANISM FOR IMPOSING THE DESIRED LABOR DISCIPLINE, CUT IS DEMONSTRATING ITSELF INCREASINGLY INEFFECTIVE.

DAVIS

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